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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

March 25, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

We write to request that you schedule floor time for Senate consideration of S.495, the Leahy-Specter Personal Data Privacy and Security Act. This comprehensive data privacy bill is aimed at better protecting Americans privacy.

A week does not go by without reports of personal data privacy breaches. This week, front page headlines have delivered news about the theft last month of personal information from the National Institutes of Health. Earlier reports have involved virtually every department of the Federal Government. And just last week, we learned that the passport files of the presidential candidates may have been compromised by contractors. Unauthorized invasions of sensitive personal medical information are another concern.

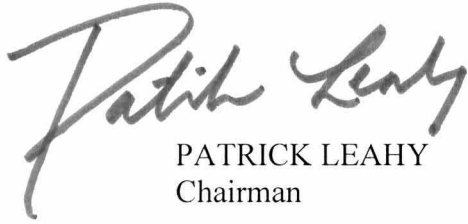
Our bill directly addresses concerns with these matters. The legislation would provide protections for consumers, including a requirement for timely notification of data security breaches. In particular, the bill would require that government contractors safeguard sensitive personal data, including the passport information that was recently breached at the State Department.

This data privacy bill has the support of many consumer, business and privacy organizations, including Microsoft, Vontu, TraceSecurity, the National Association of Credit Management, the American Federation of Government Employees, the Cyber Security Industry Alliance, the Center for Democracy and Technology, Consumers Union, Consumer Federation of America and, to a great extent, the American Association of Retired Persons. As you can see, we have been able to bring consumer interests and business interests together in support of our legislation.

The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
March 25, 2008
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Our bipartisan measure was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee last May. The Senate should consider and pass it. We can help make a difference for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Patrick Leahy" in a cursive style.

PATRICK LEAHY
Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Arlen Specter" in a cursive style.

ARLEN SPECTER
Ranking Member